This Issue of the A. F. of L. Weekly News Service Consists of 2 Pages

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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The earth must supply man with the necessaries of life before he has leisure or inclination for more refined enjoyments—Goldsmith.

WHOLE NO. 1364 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1937 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 27, NO. 23

End of Congressional Inaction On Federal Housing Bill Urged

A. F. of L. Housing Committee Asks Immediate Enactment of Wagner-Steagall Measure Authorizing Loans Totaling One Billion Dollars to Provide Dwellings at Reasonable Rents for Low-Income Groups of Workers; Construction of Million New Houses Annually for Years Necessary to Remedy Housing Shortage; Profiteering Landlords Are Already Taking Advantage of Situation to Increase Rents.

"Many Millions of Americans Still Live in Habitations Which Not Only Fail to Provide the Physical Benefits of Modern Civilization But Breed Disease and Impair the Health of Future Generations; the Menace Exists Not Only in the Slum Areas of Very Large Cities, but in Many Smaller Cities as Well; It Exists on Tens of Thousands of Farms, in Varying Degrees, in Every Part of the Country"—President Roosevelt in His Annual Message to Congress.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Prompt enactment of the Wagner-Steagall Housing Bill, in order that the machinery of the Federal Government may be immediately utilized to remedy the deplorable housing shortage which afflicts millions of working men and women and their families, is again urged by the American Federation of Labor Housing Committee and by the nineteen national and international unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. Building Trades Department.

The purpose of the bill is to set up a Federal Housing Authority to issue bonds, fully guaranteed by the United States Government, not to exceed $1,000,000,000 over a ten-year period at the rate of $200,000,000 for the first year, $250,000,000 for the second year, $250,000,000 for the third year and $300,000,000 for the fourth year.

The billion dollars provided by the bond issues will be used for loans to State and municipal housing authorities for the purpose of constructing low-rent housing according to the principles of the Federal Act.

There is also a provision for annual grants or subsidies not to exceed $10,000,000 a year for four years to keep rents down to reasonable levels.

The Wagner-Steagall bill was introduced in both Houses of Congress on February 24, and referred to the Senate Committee on Education and Labor and the House Committee on Banking and Currency.

Hearings have been held by the Senate Committee, but the bill is still in the committee stage.

Observers suggest that one reason for the delay in the parliamentary consideration of the measure is the controversy over the Senate over President Roosevelt's proposal to reorganize the Federal Judiciary and enlarge the number of justices on the Supreme Court.

The urgent reasons for prompt action on the Housing Bill were trenchantly expressed recently in a statement adopted by a joint meeting here of the A. F. of L. Housing Committee, the A. F. of L. Building Trades Department, and representatives of the Labor Housing Conference.

The statement, prepared by Harry C. Bates, chairman of the Housing Committee and president of the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers International Union, said:

"The fact that there is a controversy raging over the Supreme Court and other matters is no excuse for delaying the Housing Bill. Whether we have nine or fifteen Justices will not in any way affect the situation which necessitates this bill. The Supreme Court cannot relieve the housing shortage nor employ building workers. And the constitutionality of the Wagner-Steagall Bill has never been questioned.

Backed by Progressive Groups

"Moreover, it is unbelievable that there can at this date be any serious controversy about the provisions of the Housing Bill. Even last year, criticism and opposition came, on the whole, only from a small group of selfish interests, who would have fought against any bill to provide housing for the low-income groups. Labor indorsed the bill with whole-hearted enthusiasm, as did civic and national scale. But not only Labor. Every kind of social agency, Catholic, Protestant and Jewish organizations, mayors and municipal councils, from big cities and from small towns, from the North, East, South and West—they all stood firmly together behind the Wagner Bill. More remarkable still is that, almost every responsible housing expert supported it in detail as well as in principle!

"This year the bill is practically the same. But the few changes which have been made only make it a better bill, representing an even more unanimous meeting of minds.

"The financial setup is now simpler and clearer, with capital grants eliminated.

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Employes of Two Ranches Join Farm Workers Union

Stockton, Calif. (AFLNS).—Progress of Agricultural Workers Union No. 20221, chartered some time ago by the American Federation of Labor, is indicated by a report that 150 nearby ranches are now 100 per cent union.

One of the 100-per-centers employs twenty-nine men and the other nineteen. The union has established a minimum wage rate of 40 cents an hour, with no limit on the "up."

ALL PAPER MILL WORKERS IN EVERETT ORGANIZED

Minneapolis Local Negotiates Wage Increase Agreement.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers has organized another local union in Everett, Washington, consisting of the employes of Everett Pulp and Paper Company plant at Lowell, a suburb of Everett. This is the third Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers local chartered in Everett and marks complete unionization of the industry there. Both mills, Lowell and Scott, are composed of the employes of the Sound View Pulp Company and the Weyerhaeuser Pulp Mill.

The Paper, Pulp and Sulphite Workers Union of Minneapolis, Minnesota, has finalized an agreement with the Groff Paper Company of that city providing an immediate wage increase varying from six to eight cents an hour, with the stipulation that another increase will be made next July.

DETROIT PATTERN MAKERS ENROLL 146 NEW MEMBERS

Saginaw Will Soon Be One Hundred Per Cent Organized.

The Pattern Makers Association Local Union in Detroit, Michigan, reports that 146 new members joined the local last month.

The Pattern Makers' Association Local in Saginaw, Michigan, has a campaign under way to make this industry 100 per cent organized in that city and is meeting with encouraging success.

Federal Fund of $500,000,000 Urged To Stop Increase of Tenant Farming

Bills Sponsored by Senator Bankhead and Representative Jones Proposes Establishment of Farmers' Home Corporation to Acquire Farm Lands For Subdivision and Lease or Sale in Small Tracts to Tenant Farmers and Sharecroppers on Easy Terms.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Federal legislation to turn tenant farmers and sharecroppers into owners of farms is under consideration by Congress in two similar bills introduced by Senator John H. Bankhead of Alabama and Representative Marvin Jones of Texas. Hearings on the measures have been held by the Senate and House Agriculture Committees.

Under the proposed legislation a Farmers' Home Corporation would be established to encourage and promote the ownership of farm homes and to make the possession of such homes more secure.

To obtain this objective the Farmers' Home Corporation would be financed with a Federal fund of $50,000,000 to be used for ten years to be loaned acquiring tracts of farm land at reasonable prices and subdividing them into suitable small holdings, which would be leased or sold to thrifty tenants and sharecroppers. In order to prevent undue alienation of the farms by tenants sponsors of the measures suggest that the amortization payments extend over forty years, at the end of which rather long period tenants would be transformed into sure enough farm owners free

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EDITORIALS

Constitutionality of State Unemployment Compensation Laws

The significance of the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States upholding the validity of the Alabama Unemployment Compensation Act is the emphatic affirmation of the broad right of a State to use the taxing power to promote the general welfare, and that such use in the interest of the unemployed does not infringe the clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution which prohibit a State from depriving any person of life, liberty or property "without due process of law" and from denying to any person the "equal protection of the laws."

The Alabama statute sets up a comprehensive plan for providing unemployment benefits for workers. The law is limited to employers who employ eight or more persons for twenty or more weeks in the year, except those engaged in certain specified employments. It imposes on employers the obligation to pay a certain percentage of their total monthly payrolls into the State Unemployment Compensation Fund, administered by the State. Employees are assessed one per cent of their wages for the same fund.

The constitutionality of the Alabama law was challenged by the Southern Cold & Coke Company and the Gulf States Paper Corporation, both concerns being Delaware corporations. They claimed that the tax on payrolls was taking their property without due process of law and that the exemption of certain employers and employes violated the clause guaranteeing equal protection of the laws.

Justice Stone, who delivered the majority opinion of the Court, smashed the equal protection claim with the sweeping declaration that the exemptions constituted "the type of distinction which the law is often called upon to make" and which has been held constitutional in many decisions of the Supreme Court.

Taking up the due process of law claim, Justice Stone said:

"This Court has long and consistently recognized that the public purposes of a State, for which it raises funds by taxation, embrace expenditures for its general welfare."

The question for the Court to consider, therefore, was whether the enactment of the Alabama Unemployment Insurance Law was for the general welfare.

Pointing out that "support of the poor has long been recognized as a public purpose," Justice Stone continued:

"We need not labor the point that expenditures for the relief of the unemployed, whether in the form of money, shelter or food, or for relief of indigence of recipients of the benefits, is a permissible use of State funds.

"For the past six years the nation, unhappily, has been placed in a position to learn at first hand the nature and extent of the problem of unemployment, and to appreciate its profound influence upon the public welfare.

"Detailed accounts of the problem and its social and economic consequences, to be found in voluminous reports of the expenditures of relief funds, and in the studies of many observers, afford a basis for the legislative judgment.

"It suffices to say that they show that unemployment is has become a permanent incident of our industrial system; that it varies, in extent and intensity, with fluctuations in the volume of seasonal businesses and with the business cycle. It is dependent, with special unpredictable manifestations, upon technical changes and advances in methods of manufacture, upon changing demands for manufactured products—dictated by changes in fashion, or the creation of desirable substitutes—and upon the establishment of new sources of competition.

"The evils of the attendant social and economic wastage permeate the entire social structure. Apart from poverty, or a less extreme impairment of the savings which afford the chief protection to the working class against old age and the hazards of illness, a matter of inestimable importance to society as a whole, and apart from the loss of purchasing power, the legislature could have concluded that unemployment brings in its wake increase in vagrancy and crime, depreciation of property, reduction in the number of marriages, deterioration of family life, decline in the birth rate, increase in illegitimate births, impairment of the health of the unemployed and their families, and the malnutrition of their children."

Emphasizing the fact that the continued increase of unemployment among both agricultural and industrial workers in Alabama had required the expenditure of over $47,000,000 for emergency relief during 1933, 1934, and 1935, "of which $112,000 came from state funds, $2,245,000 from local sources and the balance from relief funds of the Federal Government," Justice Stone said:

"These figures bear eloquent witness to the inability of local agencies to cope with the problem without state action and resort to new taxing legislation. Expenditure of public funds under the present statute, for relief of unemployment, is some protection to a substantial group of employes, and we cannot say that it is not for a public purpose.

"The end being legitimate, the means is for the legislature to choose. When public evils ensue from individual misfortunes or needs, the legislature may strike at the evil at its source. If the purpose is legitimate because public, it will not be defeated because the execution of it involves payments to individuals."

It is the opinion of counsel that the decision of the Supreme Court affirming the validity of the Alabama Unemployment Compensation Law means that similar legislation enacted by other states, seven of them numbering forty-four, the District of Columbia and the Territory of Alaska, will likewise receive the Court's approval if reactionary employers should be rash enough to fight them in the courts.

The Supreme Court's Decision Upholding Picketing

In its opinion upholding the constitutional validity of the Wisconsin Labor Code, which authorizes giving publicity in labor disputes, declares peaceful picketing is not unlawful, and denies to judges the right to grant injunctions against these activities, the Supreme Court of the United States gave judicial sanction to a method long practiced by American trade unions.

The case was brought to the Supreme Court by Paul Senn, who operates a small tile-laying concern in Milwaukee.

The Milwaukee Tile Layers Union has a rule providing that no individual or corporation covered by a union agreement shall work with tile laying tools or set tile, unless it has the installation of all materials shall be done by members of the union.

The union undertook to induce Senn to become a union contractor. He said he would be glad to do so if this rule was omitted from the contract. The union said it was impossible to eliminate the rule, which was held essential to the union's interests in maintaining wage standards and spreading work among union members.

Senn refused to accept the union agreement with the objectionable rule included. The union thereupon picketed the place of business. Pickets carried a banner with inscriptions charging that Senn was unfair to the Tile Layers Union and urging people to "let the union tile layer install your tile work."

The Supreme Court of Wisconsin upheld the validity of the sections of the Labor Code challenged by Senn, who appealed the decision to the United States Supreme Court on the ground that the Wisconsin law took away his liberty and property and deprived him of the equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution. Specifically he contended that the right to work in his business with his own hands is a right guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment and that the State of Wisconsin cannot by law authorize unions to employ publicity and picketing to induce him to refrain from exercising that right.

On these points, Justice Brandeis, who wrote the opinion of the Court, said:

"Clearly the means which the statute authorizes—picketing and publicity—are not prohibited by the Fourteenth Amendment. Members of a union might, without special statutory authorization by a State, make known the facts of a labor dispute, for freedom of speech is guaranteed by the Federal Constitution. The State may, in the exercise of its police power, regulate the methods and means of publicity as well as the use of public streets.

"If the end sought by the unions is not forbidden by the Federal Constitution the State may authorize working men to seek to attain it by combining as pickets, just as it permits capitalists and employers to combine to seek to attain their declared economic ends.

After reciting that the Wisconsin law stipulates that picketing must be peaceful and "without intimidation or coercion," that customers must not be intimidated, and forbids the "secondary boycott," the opinion declared:

"Inherently, the means authorized are clearly unobjectionable. In declaring such picketing permissible Wisconsin has put this means of publicity on a par with advertisements in the press."

Turning to Senn's contention that the union rule which resulted in his place being picketed violates the Federal Constitution, the opinion said:

"The end sought by the unions is not unconstitutional. Article III, which the unions sought to have Senn accept, was found by the State courts to be not arbitrary or capricious, but a reasonable rule 'adopted by the defendants out of the necessities of employment within the industry and for the protection of themselves as workers and crafts-

MEMBERSHIP GAINS CITED BY MORRISON

A. F. of L. Secretary-Treasurer Says That Affiliated Unions Have Increased Strength by Over Half a Million New Members During Nine Months.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Frank Morrison, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, reported that the membership of the organization was 3,000,670, which, he said, was a gain of 560,670 members since August 31, 1936.

These figures, Mr. Morrison pointed out, did not include members of the ten C. I. O. unions suspended since September 6, 1936.

Gains of Retail Clerks Continue

Three Thousand New Members Enrolled in San Francisco—Bremerton Local Negotiates First Drug Store Agreement—Bellingham Union Signs Up Seven More Stores.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Over three thousand members have already been enrolled in San Francisco's newly organized union of Retail Department Store Employes Local 1100. The union has already entered into negotiations with six of the leading department stores with the object of raising wages and improving work conditions.

Fifty new members were initiated at one recent meeting of Retail Clerks Protective Association Local No. 240 of Bellingham, Washington, and the union has negotiated agreements with seven more large retail establishments and are making a drive on the chain stores. Labor union officials express the view that the drive long

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GARMENT WORKERS GAIN TWO FIRMS IN DETROIT

Employes of Globe Superior Company, Abingdon, Illinois, Form Union.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Albert Adamski, executive board member of the United Garment Workers of America, organized the employes of the Wine Bros. & Co. factory in Detroit and negotiated a contract with the company. Mr. Adamski also signed an agreement with the Coverall Manufacturing Company, a new concern which started out with the Garment Workers Union Label on the first garment made.

A local union of the United Garment Workers of America has been chartered in Abingdon, Illinois, near Galesburg. The members of the new union are employees of the Globe Superior Company, a unit of the Bluebell Overall Company which has several factories throughout the country. The union expects to persuade the company to give up its anti-union attitude.

GAS STATION ATTENDANTS UNION MAY BE CHARTERED

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The advisability of granting an international charter to gasoline station attendants, who have already formed a National Council, was considered by the Executive Council of the Federation of Labor at its regular session in Cincinnati, Ohio. The matter was placed in the hands of William Green, president of the Federation.

Changes in Social Security Law For Benefit of Workers Demanded

President Green Urges Amending Provisions Which Exclude Agricultural Labor, Domestic Service, Casual Labor, Seamen and Other Large Groups From Both Old-Age Benefits and Unemployment Insurance.

Insists on Larger Annuities With Elimination of Tax on Employes and Payrolls and Financing Plan by Direct Levy, and Unemployment Compensation For All Jobless Under a Uniform National Administration Plan.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Far-reaching changes in the Federal Social Security Act in order that it shall provide more adequate justice for the masses whom it is designed to benefit were urged by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in an address at the tenth anniversary luncheon of the American Association for Social Security recently held at the Hotel Astor in New York City.

The complete elimination of employe contributions to the old-age insurance reserves and financing the plan by direct taxation and the inclusion of farmers, domestic servants, casual workers now barred from participation in the benefits were emphasized by Mr. Green as essential amendments to the Social Security Act.

He also insisted on the importance of including all unemployed in the unemployment compensation provisions of the Act and stressed the necessity of having one national plan for unemployment insurance instead of the present system where each State sets up its own system with standards varying so that in some States the laws do not, in fact, "provide unemployment insurance."

Millions Are Still Jobless

"The great depression which demoralized our economic system and made the problem of security more acute than it has ever been before lasted almost nine months," Mr. Green said.

"Since the tide was turned in March, 1933, the current economic recovery is now in its fiftieth month. Yet, today only a small part of the problem of insecurity created by the depression has been solved. At the end of four years, we still find 9,700,000 without jobs. Some 6,800,000 jobless are still on the active files of the United States Employment Service, while new applications continue to outrun placements.

"Never before this year with over 2,000,000 persons still dependent on employment for the work relief program and over a million cases on relief."

Economic Control Held Necessary

"Economic controls embodied in the federal recovery program have been abandoned and there is no assurance that the course of recovery in the near future will be stable and secure, unless decisive steps are taken in the immediate future to reverse such concerted action.

"The problem before us then is twofold. First, to prevent the recurrence of the economic catastrophe of 1929 by assuring wage-earners their equitable share in recovery; and second, and equally important, to give the working people of America a full measure of protection against the hazard of dependency in old age and in times of unemployment. We must ask ourselves today what has been done and what still remains to be done to accomplish this purpose.

"First of all we must deal with all phases of relief, public assistance and unemployment as one closely integrated problem. They must be a coordinated plan whereby the indigent and the unemployed will be assured security under a program in which all agencies of the government responsible for these problems share jointly in their solution.

Grants to Be Abandoned

"In this respect the grants in aid or public assistance provisions of the Act are most closely related to the work relief problem. We must, therefore, strengthen that portion of the Act and our permanent and substantive law to ensure the necessary aid to those who in need not on an emergency but on a permanent basis.

"The Act is designed to extend such assistance on the basis of a contributory principle of federal aid to the states but the assistance provided is far from adequate and the standards imposed by the federal government in extending such aid are at the present time far from sufficient.

"In this respect, therefore, we have but one objective—to make the grants more adequate that the average level

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MEMBERSHIP INCREASED BY CARPENTERS LOCALS

New Union in Midland Negotiates Important Agreement—California Local Doubles Membership in Last Twelve Months.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The city of Midland, Michigan, is rapidly becoming thoroughly organized for carpenters. Local 1654 of the Carpenters Brotherhood has recently negotiated an agreement with a number of contractors providing wage scales in conformity with the prevailing union wages paid carpenters in Bay City and Saginaw, nearby cities. Some of the smaller contractors are holding out against the union rate, but it is believed they will ultimately sign up. Although the Carpenters Local was organized only a few weeks ago it has already initiated a majority of the carpenters of Midland and surrounding territory.

One hundred per cent increase in membership during the past year is recorded for Carpenters Local Union No. 642 of Vallejo, California. Thirteen new members were initiated at one meeting recently.

The Carpenters Union of Memphis, Tennessee, records a constant increase in membership. Seven new members were initiated at one recent meeting.

COOKS AND WAITERS GAIN WAGE INCREASES

Pay Envelopes Expanded by Agreements Negotiated in Detroit and Beckley.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Cooks and Waiters of Beckley, West Virginia, have signed agreements with the Cooks and Waiters' Union and received house cards. The contract limits the work week to 54 hours for men and 48 for women. One day a week wage increase was secured. Under the agreement waiters are paid $10 per week; waitresses, $10; second cooks, $11.50; first class male cooks, $26.50; second class male cooks, $19; improper work has ceased; $8; inexperienced waiters, $9.50; men dishwashers, $13; women dishwashers, $10. In addition, all employes are provided free meals. The union is an affiliate of the Hotel and Restaurant Employes International Alliance.

The Cooks' Union at Detroit, Michigan, a branch of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees' Alliance, announces that the union has an agreement with the makers of Better Made Potato Chips, which are the first union-made potato chips to be available in the state. A recent agreement by the company with the union granted increased wages of from 15 to 15 cents an hour, with a minimum of 60 cents an hour, a 45-hour work week and union conditions.

Changes Urged

men in the industry.' That finding is amply supported by the evidence.

"The laws of Wisconsin, as declared by its highest court, permit unions to endeavor to induce an employer, when unionizing his shop, to agree to refrain from working in his business with his own hands—so to endeavor although none of his employes is a member of a union. Whether it was wise for the State to permit the unions to do so is a question of its public policy—not of the Fourteenth Amendment does not prohibit it."

Then in a sweeping conclusion the Supreme Court upheld unqualifiedly the right of unions to apply all lawful activities in order to obtain more employment and higher wages for union members. On this important point the Court said:

"There is nothing in the Federal Constitution which forbids unions from competing with non-union concerns for customers. Persuasion of prospective customers by appeals reasonably framed, the use of advertisements in the press, by circulars, or by his window display, Each member of the unions, as well as Senn, has the right to strive to earn his living.

"Senn seeks to do so through the exercise of his individual skill and planning. The union members seek to do so through association. Earning a living is dependent upon securing work; and security for work is dependent upon public favor. To win the patronage of the public each may strive by legal means. Exercising its police power, Wisconsin has declared that in a labor dispute peaceful picketing and truthful publicity are means legal for unions."

The Wisconsin labor law is said to be the first of its kind to come before the Supreme Court of the United States. The Court's favorable action is regarded as a precedent for similar laws in other States.

VITREOUS CHINA WORKERS ORGANIZED BY POTTERS

El Cerrito Company Employes Sign Up 51 Per Cent for Union—Wheeling Initiates 27 New Members.

Fifty-one per cent of the employes of the Technical Porcelain Works of El Cerrito, California, organized the Vitreous China Workers Union of that city and applied for a charter of affiliation with the Brotherhood of Operative Potters.

Twenty-seven new members were recently initiated by Operative Potters Brotherhood Local Union No. 6 at Wheeling, West Virginia. The union members are well pleased with the wage increase negotiated with pottery owners.

Changes in Social Security Law For Benefit of Workers Demanded

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of all throughout the country could be increased and to make sure that minimum standards of assistance are adhered to by the states.

"Probably the most serious shortcoming in the present law will be found in the provisions relating to the old age insurance.

Defects in Annuity Plan

"The present system is financed entirely from taxes on wages and payrolls, thereby placing the double burden of the cost upon the workers. The coverage of the benefits is limited and excluded large and important groups of the wage-earners. The annuities provided for, fall far below the minimum social requirements. The present system not only fails short of offering security to our other population but is also burdensome and unworkable in its fiscal provisions.

"The American Federation of Labor believes that such groups as agricultural workers, seamen and others must be included in the coverage of the old age insurance plan. It also believes that the present rate of annuities must be revised upward. Employee contributions should be eliminated and the program should be financed by direct taxation.

"The enormous reserves provided for in the present law will be unnecessary if the program is financed from direct progressive current taxes and if the states aids its share to the contributions. Minor adjustments in the program suggested from many sources cannot solve the problem.

"We must eradicate the present shortcomings of the old age insurance plan and place it on a sound and workable basis."

Asks Unemployment Insurance for All Workers

Turning to the subject of unemployment insurance, Mr. Green said that from the beginning it was realized that the ideal system would be a uniform one administered by the Federal Government. But this was held impossible because of legal and constitutional difficulties, consequently the present high credit plan administered individually by the several States was put into effect.

As a result of the State plan, he said, "administration of unemployment compensation is now being attempted along a patchwork pattern of 48 different state systems which not only lack uniformity but also often fall short of the promises to provide unemployment insurance.

"Even if the system is to be administered by States, labor is convinced that there must be uniformity in the standards and that the Federal Government provide for state-wide pooling of funds.

"The standards of benefits are in many instances so unsatisfactory as to render such state payments valueless.

"Here again the act excludes many groups of workers who should be brought within the coverage of the law. We believe that the important groups of workers now deprived of benefits should be given equal protection under the program.

"Merit Rating" Frowns Unemployment

"The state laws are stated to have provided for individual company reserve funds, partially pooled funds, state-wide pooled funds, guaranteed employment accounts and merit rating. There is no uniformity. There is no uniformity. It is a matter of especial regret that such features as guaranteed employment accounts and merit rating results in the establishment of unemployment funds. They seem a threat to the worker's benefits because of the lack of financial stability and the excessive administrative cost. It seriously threatens to freeze out the payment of adequate additional provision of permanent unemployment.

"It is the field of unemployment insurance then we also find that the larger defects of the act will be raised at once.

"Unemployment insurance has often been called the first line of defense against unemployment. It is indeed a master of our available forces which make up this line of defense and when its work is broken, annuitization which is often of doubtful quality and no agreement among the many generals on the best strategy for either defense or attack.

"Unemployment is our greatest and the most overpowering economic enemy. We must meet this enemy with unified forces and with united strength and effective equipment.

"When we turn to the administrative problems in the immediate future, we perceive at once that the ensuring of success for the success of the social security administration is the preservation of unity in the system of agencies responsible for the program. The Social Security Board can only succeed if its work related to every phase of administration is coordinated with the single integrated agency. The unity of the Board's work must remain inviolate."

Federation of Women's Auxiliaries of Labor Plans Campaign for Union Label Products

Starts Work to Secure One Million New Members During Next Twelve Months.

Washington, D. C. (AFLNS).—The second conference of the American Federation of Women's Auxiliaries of Labor, consisting of representatives of the Women's Auxiliaries of the national and international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and the Standard Railway Labor Unions, which recently met here, was a success from every viewpoint.

The conference was called by I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the A. F. of L. Union Label Trades Department, with the approval of the American Federation of Labor and the officers of the women's auxiliaries of the Standard Railway Labor Unions.

The program of the American Federation of Women's Auxiliaries of Labor includes action in the educational, legislative and economic fields of labor. The buying of union label products and the patronage of union services were also made important parts of the plans of the organization.

The conference included representatives of over one million women members of labor union auxiliaries and was unanimous in pledging its united organized women's federation in order to centralize the activities that all women members of the labor unionist family have in common.

List of Delegates

Following are the names of the representatives of the women's auxiliaries who attended the meeting here, together with their respective auxiliaries they represented:

Mrs. R. J. Lowther, secretary-treasurer, Women's International Auxiliary to the International Typographical Union; Miss Margaret McCarthy, grand secretary-treasurer, Ladies' Auxiliary to the Switchmen's Union of North America; Mrs. Laura Eaton, grand president, Grand Lodge of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen of America; Mrs. Helen C. Clark, grand president, Ladies' Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Railroad Telegraphers.

Mrs. R. M. Lanning, president, National Ladies' Auxiliary to the American Train Dispatchers Association; Mrs. Herman H. Lowe, president, Women's Auxiliary to the National Federation of Post Office Clerks, and Mrs. Walter T. Wilkinson, representative; Mrs. Grace M. Lay, co-representative and Mrs. Walter Mc-Laurency, international president, International Women's Auxiliary to the International Photo-Engravers' Union of North America.

Mrs. May Peake, international president, Ladies' Auxiliary to the International Association of Machinists; Mrs. Grace M. Hinkle, president, Woman's International Auxiliary to the International Typographical Union; Mrs. Bernice McDonald, secretary, National Ladies' Auxiliary to the National Association of Letter Carriers; Mrs. Edith A. Barr, grand secretary-treasurer, and Mrs. Edna Keyes, grand president, of the Ladies' Grand Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes.

Mrs. Stranahan Hamilton, president, Women's Auxiliary to the International Stereotypers and Electrotypers' Union; Mrs. Sammell and Mrs. Catherine R. Donovan, grand secretary-treasurer, and Mrs. Hartle Hoffman, grand president, of the Grand Lodge Loyal Star of America, Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen of America.

Membership Drive

The Committee on Organization of the American Federation of Women's Auxiliaries of Labor has already started a drive for new members. The committee has authorization to issue temporary certificates of affiliation to local Women's Auxiliaries. The purpose of the committee is to add one million members to the Federation during the next twelve months, bringing its membership to three million.

The Union Label Trades Department urges all women members of "labor unionists' families of National and International Labor Unions, and also the Standard Railway Labor Unions" to send their names and addresses to their international officers, or directly to the Union Label Trades Department, American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C.

Beauticians Learn Value of Unionism

Ten Union Agreements Negotiated in Long Beach — Seven Sacramento Shops Sign Up in One Week.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Organization of the Beauty Operators Union of Long Beach, California, was placed in ten beauty shops and three others signed up were awaiting action of the Journeymen Barbers International Union. The new union started out with 46 members and within a week raised the membership list to nearly one hundred.

Beauticians' Local Union No. 112, of Sacramento, California, is undertaking a big campaign to organize all the unorganized beauty shops in that city, with a determination that prevails among the 1,500 members already been placed in several shops, nine being reported in one week.

Fifty-three shops in Portland, Oregon, have been chartered by the Journeymen Barbers International Union.

UNIONS IN PAYETTE, IDAHO, MARCH AHEAD

Five-Day Week and Pay Increases Gained for Building Trades on Both Private and Government Work.

Payette, Idaho (AFLNS).—Under the leadership of Payette Trades and Labor Union No. 20474, A. F. of L. labor in this territory is extending organization work and making excellent progress in adjustments of wage scales and improving working conditions.

A new plasterers' local union is among the locals that have recently been formed.

Building craft unions are establishing the 5-hour day and 5-day week for all work, including PWA, WPA and private construction. Wage scales that went into effect include: bricklayers, $1 an hour; plumbers, $1; electricians, $1; semi-skilled labor, 75 cents, and unskilled labor, 50 cents an hour.

Included among new rates scheduled to go into effect are: Tile layers, $1.50 an hour; modelers, $1.75, and casters, $1.50 an hour.

The Payette Trades Federation of Labor is co-operating in the drive for more effective organization and improved conditions for the workers.

OAKLAND BUILDING TRADES GAIN MANY UNION SHOPS

Oakland, Calif. (AFLNS).—The unionizing of the building industry in Contra Costa County, California, is in full swing and many contractors are signing up with the Building Trades Council, it was learned here. The union shop is Herbert Green, described as a "speculative" contractor.

Two additional contractors in Berkeley who have been signed up for the union shop and agree to observe union conditions, according to reports, are J. W. Scammell of Oakland and Charles W. McGregor, in the nearby town of Albany. Scammell had been on organized labor's "unfair list," but finally saw the light and experienced the pleasure of seeing his name removed from that objectionable category.

Auto Painters Form Union and Long Beach Local

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The Brotherhood Auto Painters Union has been chartered at Long Beach, California. The local started with 33 members, raising the number to more than 40 within a few days.

A large number of auto painters have joined Auto Painters Union No. 824 of Denver, Colorado, during a vigorous increased-membership campaign.

HIGHER PAY PACTS WON BY ELECTRICAL WORKERS

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The Electrical Workers' Union in Flint, Michigan, following negotiations lasting 90 days, has secured new working agreements with seven electrical contracting firms, which installed 74 per cent of the work done there in 1936. The union secured a wage increase of 15 cents an hour, bringing the rate to $1.25 an hour.

The Electrical Workers' Union at Waterloo, Iowa, recently secured a new wage contract with five contracting concerns in that city, boosting the hourly rate to $1.12½. The agreement extends to April 1, 1938.

Molders Gain Union Shop In Coldwater, Michigan

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The molders employed by the Horner Furnace Company of Coldwater, Michigan, are now 100 per cent organized in a local of the International Molders' Union of North America. Some months ago the company fought the organization of the union. A strike was called—and the company is now a union concern.

Dayton Envelope Workers Add $4 to Weekly Wages

Dayton, Ohio (AFLNS).—An agreement providing an average $3 weekly wage increase for each of the employes of the International Envelope Corporation of Dayton has been negotiated by the Envelope Workers' Union, with plans in view for further adjustments of the pay of employes in the various markets, the contract includes union recognition. It is estimated that the wage increase totals approximately $1,500 per week.

Gains of Retail Clerks Continue

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every store in Bellingham will have signed up with the union.

Drug Store Gets Medal

Retail Clerks in Bremerton, Washington, got off to a flying start in the organization of drug store workers. The first union agreement ever to be signed by a drug store in Kitsap County was obtained with the Charleston Drug Store, operated by D. D. ("Doc") Ellis. It was stated others were certain to follow. The clerks are asking: minimum salary of $35 a week for pharmacists, with a graduated scale for others; a 9-hour maximum work day and two weeks' vacation with pay annually.

Port Huron Stores Sign Up

Over two hundred members attended a recent meeting of the rapidly-growing Retail Clerks Union of Port Huron, Michigan. Many of the leading stores have become 100 per cent organized and display the union shop card, with a considerable number of other stores approaching the 100 per cent mark. The benefits of unionism were impressed upon the fact that the management of one store who had discharged three girls who were the first to join the union, reinstated them with full pay for time lost.

Aberdeen Grocers Sign Pact

The Retail Clerks' Union of Aberdeen, Washington, has entered an agreement with the Aberdeen Retail Grocers' Association which calls for a 48-hour week and wage increase with overtime pay. All union stores will close Saturdays at 6 p. m. and Sundays at 6 p. m. each day.

Cedar Rapids Has Strong Union

Believing that trade union collective bargaining is the most effective method of securing higher wages, shorter hours and improved work conditions the retail clerks of Cedar Rapids and Marion, Iowa, have organized in Local 276 of the Retail Clerks International Protective Association. It is believed the new union will become one of the largest in Cedar Rapids.

Locals Formed in Santa Monica, Hibbing and Richmond

Twenty-six new members were initiated at the last meeting of Retail Clerks Local Union No. 1170 of Richmond, California. Twenty-one were employes of Albert's store.

Retail Clerks in Hibbing, Minnesota, have organized a new local union, starting out with about 75 members, to which others are expected to be added.

A new local of the International Retail Clerks Protective Association has been organized in Santa Monica, California. Dissatisfaction with low wages and long hours prompted on them in their unorganized status resulted in a large number of clerks joining the organization meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS MINIMUM PAY SET BY NEW MEXICO

Prevailing Wage Is Taken as Basis For Establishing Hourly Rates Which Contractors Must Pay.

Santa Fe, N. M. (AFLNS).—Under the minimum wage law passed by the last New Mexico legislature minimum wages are fixed on all State contracts amounting to more than $2,000 by State Labor Commissioner F. C. Davis, the prevailing wages in the different districts being taken as the basis for fixing the wage rates.

The law was sponsored by the New Mexico State Federation of Labor, President Alex Grieg and Secretary F. M. Thompson having actively supported the bill during the legislative session.

Contractors are required to post minimum wage scales in a public place on all public works projects. The hourly wage scale for Bernalillo county and surrounding territory has been issued by Mr. Davis. It is said to be typical of scales which will be issued for other districts.

The following hourly wage rates are prescribed for the Bernalillo region: unskilled labor, 40 cents; truck operators of 1½ ton trucks or under, 50 cents; operators of trucks over 1½ tons, 75 cents; lathers (wood and metal), blacksmiths, carpenters, and shovel or drag line operators, $1.12½; bricklayers, cement finishers, electricians, gas fitters, plasterers, plumbers and structural steel workers $1.25; power-glaziers and journeymen printers $1; jackhammer operators 90 cents; tile setters and acetylene welders and cutters, $1.50.

ALASKA CANNERY UNION SECURES HIGHER WAGES

Agreement Includes All Fish Canning Processes—Workers Hired Through Union Halls.

San Francisco, Calif. (AFLNS).—The Alaska Canners' Workers' Union, whose headquarters are in San Francisco, has signed a new agreement with the Alaska canning operators, in effect for the season, establishing new minimum wages of $75, $85 and $93 a month and setting up elaborate rules regarding working conditions.

The operators recognize the union as bargaining agent for the men in all processes of fish canning, from the fish line to delivery in cases to warehouses and vessels.

The cannery workers are hired through the union hall in San Francisco except for residents or natives of Alaska, and these workers are members of the union within fifteen days after commencement of work.

Coshocton Paper Makers Win Higher Pay, Shorter Hours

Coshocton, Ohio (AFLNS).—Employes of the Skillington Fiber Company here have been organized in a local union of the International Brotherhood of Paper Makers. The first thing the union did was to negotiate an agreement with the company providing a minimum wage of 50 cents an hour for all employes and a shorter work day.

PAY INCREASES GAINED BY CULINARY WORKERS

Shorter Hours and Holiday Rules Included in Watsonville and Everett Agreements.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Wage increases averaging 10 per cent feature the new agreement of Culinary Alliance and Bartenders Union Local 1445 of Watsonville, California, which has been signed by representatives of the Watsonville employers coming under its jurisdiction. The contract fixes minimum pay for waitresses and miscellaneous employes at $2.75. Pay for cooks ranges from $4.50 per day, cooks to $6 for chief cooks. Meals are furnished by employers.

Employers agree to hire only members of the union in good standing. An 8-hour day within a 12-hour period, with not more than one split in a shift, and not more than six days work per week are provided. All extra employes for holidays, conventions or celebrations will be paid one dollar over the rate for cooks. Meals are furnished by employers.

Culinary Workers and Bartenders No. 451, an affiliate of the Hotel and Restaurant Employes International Alliance and Bartenders International League, at Everett, Washington, have submitted a new scale to employers there, calling for increases in wages of from $4 to $5 per week, 8-hour day, 6-day week. This schedule, which is to become effective June 1, would give the workers a 40-hour work week, instead of 48 hours as heretofore.

BAKERY WORKERS WIN PAY INCREASE PACTS

New Contracts in Washington, Cincinnati, Duluth and Springfield Add Many Dollars to Pay Envelopes.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Bakery and Confectionery Workers' Local Union No. 118, of Washington, D. C., have secured new agreements with all leading bakeries raising wages 3 cents an hour and, for the first time, granting a full week's vacation with pay. The rate now is: day work, $1.05 an hour; night work, $1.20 an hour.

Bakery Workers' Local Union No. 215, at Cincinnati, Ohio, recently succeeded in signing the National Biscuit Company to a union contract, through which 45 workers in the plant secured wage increases of $2 to $10 a week, retroactive to May 1. The contract also provides for the 5-day, 40-hour work week. Out of $10 a week, retroactive to May 1. The contract also provides for the 5-day, 40-hour work week. Out of $10 a week, $1.05 an hour; night work, $1.20 an hour.

Bakery Workers' Local Union No. 215, at Cincinnati, Ohio, recently succeeded in signing the National Biscuit Company to a union contract, through which 45 workers in the plant secured wage increases of $2 to $10 a week, retroactive to May 1. The contract also provides for the 5-day, 40-hour work week. Out of $10 a week, $1.05 an hour; night work, $1.20 an hour.

An agreement providing wage increases and other benefits has been negotiated with the Peerless Candy Company of Duluth, Minnesota, with the Bakery and Confectionery Workers of the same city. The contract was initiated all of the candy company's employes.

Bakers' Union No. 147, at Springfield, Ill., has secured a new agreement with employers there, in which they have won an increase of $2 a week in wages and improved working conditions.

DRY CLEANERS ORGANIZE IN ST. PAUL, MINNEAPOLIS

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Local Dry Cleaners has been organized at Kalamazoo, Michigan, a charter recently having been delivered to Union No. 54. A. D. Wallace, A. F. of L. organizer, who assisted in the formation of the new local, states that a campaign is now under way to organize all workers in the industry. The dry cleaning firms are reported as already 100 per cent union.

Dry Cleaning and Laundry Workers' Local Union No. 150 of St. Paul, Minnesota, has enrolled all employes of the Capitol Dry Cleaning Co. that city as members of the union with wage scales and work conditions approved by the union. This is the second general laundry in St. Paul to come into the union ranks as a result of the organization drive started a few weeks ago.

California Butchers Union Gains Safeway Stores Pact

Modesto, Calif. (AFLNS).—A new wage scale negotiated here by the Butchers Union with the Safeway Stores, Inc., restored the 1929 wage scale for meat cutters, which means a wage boost of $2.50 per week over the present minimum scale. It is believed the agreement provides a scale for apprentices and retains the provisions for no Sunday or holiday work.

The new scale affects all markets coming under the jurisdiction of the County Butchers Union and includes cities of Modesto, Turlock, Ripon, Oakdale and Sonora.

Minneapolis Food and Candy Workers Land Higher Wages

Minneapolis, Minn.— (AFLNS).— Wage increase agreements with the Blue Moon Cheese Company and the Peerless Candy Company, manufacturers of spaghetti and other food products, have been signed by Food and Confectionery Workers' Local Union No. 1120 here.

The contracts provide seniority rights, wage increases of from 7½ to 15 per cent, the 40-hour week and time and one-half for overtime. One of the contracts is signed by workers and benefited by the contracts.

Cleveland Drop Forgers Gain Wage Increase After Strike

Cleveland, Ohio (AFLNS).—The Cleveland Blacksmiths and Drop Forgers Union negotiated an agreement with the Steel Improvement and Forge Company calling for wage increases ranging from 15 to 20 per cent, union recognition and time and one-half for overtime. The agreement was secured during a three-day strike of 60 union members.

End of Congressional Inaction On Federal Housing Bill Urged

(Continued from Page 1)

nated, and subsidy solely by contractual annual grants, made by the U. S. Housing Authority to the local authorities.

"This is in accordance with the most successful practice abroad, particularly in England. It is the practice that efficiencies made last year at the hearings, notably at that of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the House Committee on Appropriations, by representatives of the Treasury Department, which is now apparently criticizing these very features.

"There is today perfect unity of every individual organization and agency seriously interested in improving housing conditions, behind the Wagner-Steagall Bill. We cannot remember a single piece of major reform legislation which received such harmonious support. Compare, for example, the situation that attended the drafting and passage of Social Security legislation!

"Throughout the country, the alternatives are being clearly realized. We have to do something about housing: are for the Wagner-Steagall Bill, or are against it. And, viewing the statement continued:

"Extent of Housing Shortage

"The general housing shortage which Labor has predicted as inevitable, is now upon us. Before June it will be the worst housing shortage ever faced by this country. According to the most reliable estimates, we need to build between seven and sixteen million new homes before 1956—that is, in the next twenty years. Our immediate needs are proportionately larger, since we must make up for the seven long years of idleness, and for a century's accumulation of obsolete and unlivable homes.

"Even if we can find, some way of producing a million homes a year, right away, we shall not avoid a shortage. But, bank in the twenties, in the biggest building boom we ever had, the largest number of new homes ever built in one year was about 900,000. We stress the quantitative shortage, rather than the terrible slum conditions or the continued unemployment of building trades workers, because a general housing shortage affects every citizen of this country, rich or poor.

Increase in Rents Visioned

"What happens in a period of housing shortage? What is going on today all over the United States if drastic measures are not taken immediately?

"First, rents will go up. The National Industrial Conference Board shows that they increased by 1.4 per cent in the last quarter. They will go up much more rapidly than wages. That is, every family will pay a larger share of their income for real, instead of paying 20 per cent they will pay 30 per cent or even more.

"Aside from the discomfort and misery of individual families, what will this start? Not less than a national economy! It means that all wage increases will be devoured, industrial gains will be nullified. A bad housing shortage, with inevitable skyrocketing rent increases, is the quickest and easiest way to undermine any return to prosperity, to take money out of the pockets of consumers and pay it all as rental expenditure and nonproductive profits imaginable.

"Two Families in Every Home"

"A housing shortage means general 'doubling up.' Two families in every garage', the slogan of 1936 and 1937 will be 'two families in every home'.

"Private enterprise cannot possibly meet the housing need. The residential building industry is sick. Today, with vacancies unusually low, it cannot relatively cheap, with continued unemployment among building workers, we are only building about one unit for one third as many new homes as we built in the twenties, on an average.

"Moreover, private enterprise, in spite of all the promises made to it, has for the past few years, is not and cannot supply the needs of the lower-paid half of the population.

Pass the Housing Bill Now

"Therefore, the Wagner-Steagall Bill should be passed immediately. In view of the tremendous need, the funds provided under it should be doubled. That it could be a real factor, not only in improving housing conditions, but also in bringing the possibility of much-needed stability to the most wasteful and speculative 'luxury trade' we have in this country—the residential building business."

Federal Fund of $500,000,000 Urged To Stop Increase of Tenant Farming

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from the payment of either interest on a mortgage or rent.

Inquiry Urged by A. F. of L.

Consideration of the problems confronting tenant farmers and sharecroppers was urged in the 1937 convention of the American Federation of Labor, which adopted a resolution proposing an inquiry into the tenant farmers Union and urging a thorough Federal investigation of the conditions of workers in the cotton-producing areas.

A resolution to this effect, introduced by delegates of the Arkansas and Texas State Federations of Labor, was recommended for concurrence by the Resolutions Committee and the report of the committee was adopted by the convention.

The Southern Tenant Farmers' Union is said to represent 25,000 field workers in Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma and other cotton states, where it is estimated 2,000,000 agricultural workers, sharecroppers and tenant farmers are engaged in producing cotton.

After citing the conditions under which tenant farmers and sharecroppers work, and many details of their gradual progress, the resolution as adopted contained the following:

Farm Workers Organization Indorsed

"Resolved, That this fifty-sixth convention of the American Federation of Labor again commend and endorse the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union for the valiant efforts in behalf of the cotton field workers in the face of great obstacles.

"That the Federation approves of the principle of organization of farm workers affords the only instrumentality through which a solution of their problems can be worked out;

"That the Federation insist upon the preservation of constitutional rights of cities in the cotton areas so that organization of the field workers may proceeds effective collective bargaining can continue in accordance with the American tradition;

"That the Federation will recommend and endorse only those programs, legislative or otherwise, which give reasonable assurance of success to the field workers a standard of living in keeping with that sought generally by the Federation for its membership;

"That the Executive Council and Executive Council to give serious consideration to all requests of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union and that the Executive

"That it request all affiliated bodies to file likewise whenever it appears that it repeat its recommendation that the Executive Council take steps to bring about a thorough Federal investigation of the conditions of workers in the cotton areas with a full publication of findings."

The hearings held by the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the House Committee on Agriculture on the Bankhead and Jones Bills cover quite completely details of tenant farming and sharecropping and approved legislative proposals. Interested persons or committees will send copies of the hearings if free of cost to interested parties.

Workmen's Compensation Provision Required In All of West Palm Beach Building Permits

By A. F. of L. News Service.

West Palm Beach, Florida.—The Building Trades Council of West Palm Beach is stated over the enactment of an ordinance by the City Commission providing that "building permits shall contain a statement by the applicant that the firm or corporation actually performing the work thereunder have agreed to comply with and abide by the Florida Workmen's Compensation Act."

In order to put teeth in the ordinance there is a provision that applicants for building permits shall be presumptively guilty of misrepresentation and fraud in the procurement of permits upon proof that the person, firm or corporation performing the work did not comply with the Compensation Act.

It is believed that the ordinance will add very much to the protection of injured workers.

It is said that West Palm Beach is the first city in Florida to enact such a measure.

TEN FIRMS IN MUSKEGON SIGN UP WITH PLUMBERS

Contractors in Decatur and Stockton Join Union Agreement List.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Loyalty to trade union principles wins in the long run. This is again demonstrated by Plumbers and Steamfitters Local No. 154 of Muskegon, Michigan, whose recent victories for union shop contracts include the Reid-Graf Company and Ruiter Brothers, who had been on the "unfair list" or "black list" for a long time. Edward Barnes, a plumbing contractor, was also signed up. These contracts raise to ten the Muskegon firms employing union plumbers.

Seven contractors in Decatur, Illinois, have signed one-year contracts with Plumbers and Steamfitters Local No. 65.

The Fair Oaks Plumbing Shop of Stockton, California, has signed a 100 per cent union shop agreement with the Building Trades Council of San Joaquin County.

St. Louis Meat Cutters Sign Up Kroger and Piggly-Wiggly

St. Louis, Mo. (AFLNS).—Meat Cutters' Local No. 88 won an important victory here when a "closed shop" agreement was secured with the Kroger and Piggly-Wiggly stores here. About 200 butchers and meat cutters got a minimum of $35 a week, with union hours, in these two chains.

ORGANIZED CARPENTERS WIN HIGHER PAY RATES

Union Agreements Raise the Living Standards in Widely Separated Areas.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Carpenters' Local Union No. 861, of Southbridge, Massachusetts, has negotiated contracts with four Southbridge contractors calling for an increase in wages of ten cents an hour. The local has doubled its membership during the last few months.

Carpenter's Local Union, No. 283, of Augusta, Ga., following two months of negotiations, have secured a new minimum wage rate of 85 cents an hour.

An increase in wages from 90 cents to $1 an hour has been secured in an agreement between the Carpenters' Local No. 176, of Newport, Rhode Island, with the contractors of that city.

The carpenters' local union in Memphis, Tennessee, has gained an increase in wages amounting to 5 per cent, which becomes effective June 1. The union has also added many new members during recent weeks.

Officials of Carpenters' Local Union No. 301, of Woonsocket, Rhode Island, announce that little opposition was manifested on the part of contractors when the union negotiated its new wage schedule establishing $1 an hour as the wage rate. Over 100 members are benefiting from the higher wages.

A. F. of L. Supports Federal Labor Standards Bill, Sponsored By Roosevelt, With Amendments to Guard Collective Bargaining

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dustry of the higher standard prevailing in the balance of the industry. (Sec. 5 (b)).

(4) Overtime.

The hours of employment may exceed the fixed maximum work week provided:

(a) Overtime is paid at the rate of one and one-half the regular hourly rate; (Sec. 6 (b)) or

(b) The number of hours and the rate per hour of overtime is specifically covered by an order of the Board. (Sec. 6 (b)).

(5) Special Cases.

The Board may exempt occupations from the maximum fair week's standard by an order, upon finding:

(a) The overtime employment is of a special character, such as seasonal, peak activity, repairs, or emergencies; (Sec. 6 (c) (4)).

(b) Special cases justifying special treatment. (Sec. 6 (c) (5)).

(6) Collective Bargaining.

(a) Neither the Act nor any order or regulation shall interfere with collective bargaining or with action taken by employees to enforce collective bargaining under the law of the land. (Sec. 23 (a)).

(b) Neither the Act nor any order or regulation can increase hours above those specified in collective bargaining agreements. (Sec. 23 (b)).

(c) The Act is to be interpreted and administered to encourage collective bargaining.

(d) The investigations by the Board of maximum fair work week in any occupation are to be made whenever the Board has reason to believe (among other things) that "owing to the inadequacy or ineffectiveness of the facilities for collective bargaining" such standards do not exist or have not been maintained.

The above presents three questions:

I. Should hours of labor be regulated by Congressional action?

II. Within what limits should Congressional regulation of hours be provided?

III. What should be the relation between Congressional regulation and collective bargaining agreements in the same field of activity?

Each of these will now be considered.

I
SHOULD HOURS OF LABOR BE REGULATED BY CONGRESSIONAL ACTION?

The American Federation of Labor for almost half a century has pioneered for the principle that fair play and industrial morality require of industry the shortening of hours of labor without reduction in pay to provide for labor the escape from suffering through the progressive and continued increase in the per capita productivity of American labor.

With the dislocation of life arising from the Great War and the accelerated increase in the use of labor-displacing mechanical equipment thereafter, the American Federation of Labor brought into sharp focus to the American people the necessity of shortening hours of labor to absorb unemployment and championed that cause almost single-handed for the unorganized workers of this country.

With the coming of the depression, the sentiment aroused by the American Federation of Labor crystallized in 1933 in the enactment by the Senate, as championed by the American Federation of Labor, of the Black 30-Hour Work Week Bill for interstate commerce. But, as you will recall, such legislation was diverted in the House with the passage of the National Industrial Recovery Act enacted to deal with wages, hours and conditions of employment.

Acting as labor advisors under the National Industrial Recovery Act in the interests primarily of the unorganized workers of this country, the American Federation of Labor succeeded, through the codes, in establishing the basic 40-hour week for most industries, a reduction in some cases from standards ranging from 70 to 80 hours per week.

The story of industry since the invalidation of the National Industrial Recovery Act is one of departure from the labor standards therein provided, in the direction of lengthened hours of employment.

A nation-wide survey of such departures from June, 1935, through March, 1936, in 583 industries reveals that 4,073,901 employes were affected by lengthened hours to the extent of 35,247,473 added man hours beyond those specified in the codes.

Such added hours, if spread among the unemployed, would have permitted the reemployment by those industries alone for that period of 839,123 employes. It is probable that the departures from the National Industrial Recovery Act coded hours of employment alone have accounted for upward of two and one-half million unemployed since its invalidation.

Add to this situation the consideration that at the same time technological improvements and expansion in the volume of output resulted in a 40 per cent increased productivity per worker per hour from 1929 to 1935 and you can readily see why employment has lagged behind production more and more and why industrial recovery alone cannot absorb the unemployed.

The increasing lag of employment behind production became apparent even before the invalidation of the National Industrial Recovery Act. It was clear that the reduction of hours of employment through codes as a substitute for a legislative 30-hour week was not accomplishing its purpose. Accordingly, at its annual convention at San Francisco in October, 1934, the American Federation of Labor adopted a resolution reaffirming its position in favor of a 30-hour week for industry and urging the support of the American people for the enactment of legislation to give effect thereto.

In January, 1935, legislation was offered in the Senate, as you will recall, requiring that every code embody as a part thereof a 30-hour basic work week standard to be effective for a period of two years from its enactment.

At the hearings on that Bill before the Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee on January 31, 1935, the American Federation of Labor made an exhaustive presentation in favor of this legislation. The facts therein stated and the majority report of the Committee in favor of the passage of the Bill of March 13, 1935, stand today as then as conclusive arguments in favor of shortening work hours by legislation to solve the problem of unemployment.

The Message of the President of the United States of May 24, 1937, focuses attention on the present unemployment situation and on the urgent need of industry to take action providing for the absorption of the unemployed.

The American Federation of Labor at its annual convention at Tampa in October, 1936, pledged itself to work unceasingly to solve the unemployment problem. It is firmly of the conviction that such problem cannot be solved by Government relief or Government spending. Nor is it willing to concede that American industry, aroused to the full import of the facts and with full knowledge thereof, is incapable or unwilling to assume the obligation of providing within its own resources the economic stability which in these crucial days of transition is more imperative than ever before, and which can only be attained by the industrial absorption of the army of unemployed through the shortening of hours of work.

To assist industry in its efforts to attain such economic stability, Congressional action providing the machinery for such absorption is necessary. We therefore answer in the affirmative the first question raised by the proposals of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1937 covering maximum work week standards, to wit: **Should Hours of Labor be Regulated by Congressional Action?**

II
WITHIN WHAT LIMITS SHOULD CONGRESSIONAL REGULATION OF HOURS BE PROVIDED?

Based upon the experience of the many and varied industries wherein, through collective bargaining with unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, employers have established and have prospered under a basic 30-hour work-week, the American Federation of Labor is convinced that industry in general is now ready for a basic 30-hour work-week basis of employment and that it will in due course be so established.

On the other hand, the American Federation of Labor appreciates full well that unorganized industry is generally established on a basic work week basis closer to the 40-hour work-week, and that only in special and unusual cases need or should a basic longer work-week be tolerated.

In order therefore that the transition to a shorter work-week in unorganized industry may be cushioned by flexibility; that the work-week hours so established may be coordinated with the work-week policy established in such industry through collective bargaining and applied by the Board to the industry as a whole thereafter as hereinbelow recommended, the American Federation of Labor recommends that the maximum work-week to be designated by Congress for the initial regulation of industry be 40 hours and that the Board be empowered to vary such work-week standard downward to a 30-hour work-week.

III
WHAT SHOULD BE THE RELATION BETWEEN CONGPESSIONAL LEGISLATION AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IN THE SAME FIELD OF LABOR?

The American Federation of Labor feels that the maximum hour legislation enacted pursuant to the President's message of May 24, 1937, should conform to the following policy:

(1) It should carry out objectives enunciated in this message and contemplated by it, to wit: to provide legislative regulation of employment in industry only to the extent necessary to produce, and only so long as industry itself by collective bargaining does not produce, the objectives therein specified in the public interest and for the national welfare;

(2) It should, in so carrying out these objectives, attach full force to the effective results already, and to the extent obtained by collective bargaining;

(3) It should encourage the continued functioning of such collective bargaining machinery therein; and

(4) It should provide for the withdrawal of governmental regulation as such collective bargaining expands to effectively replace the regulated field and produces the results desired to be attained by the President and by the legislation enacted pursuant thereto.

With such objectives attained, it would mean that maximum hours in industry would be regulated either by the Government or by collective bargaining, with the Government withdrawing as collective bargaining expands, and with inducement to industry to accept collective bargaining as an alternative to Government regulation.

The recital above given of the maximum hour provisions of the proposed Fair Labor Standards Act of 1937 reveals a clear intent and substantial compliance by the authors of the Bill to conform it to the policy above stated and to attain the objectives above outlined.

But to further insure that these objectives are achieved and this policy is carried out in the manner and to the extent contemplated by the President's Message as above interpreted, the American Federation of Labor, as a result of its long experience in collective bargaining, will offer herewith six additional sections to make certain that the provisions of the Act shall operate in fact and in practice to encourage and not to hamper collective bargaining, and that the administration of the Act shall utilize to the fullest extent the substantial and effective results already obtained and to be obtained from time to time through collective bargaining in industry.

IV
MINIMUM WAGES

For intelligent discussion of the questions raised by the provisions of the Congressional Fair Labor Standards Act of 1937 covering minimum wages, it is necessary to present the following brief summary of its provisions relating thereto:

(1) Initial Regulation.

a. The Board is to enter an order or regulation stating what employments are to be covered by the minimum wage standard per hour, which Congress is to specify as part of the Act as passed.

2. In stating the employments to be covered by the order or regulation, the Board must find that the application of such minimum wage standard to the business will not "unreasonably curtail opportunities for employment."

(2) Variation of Minimum Wage Standard.

The Board may, by regulation or order:

a. Vary the Congressional minimum wage standard upward or downward (Sec. 4 (c));

b. As to all classes or any class of employes (Sec. 4 (c));

c. To the extent it finds such variation necessary, or appropriate "to prevent the depression of general wage levels below those consistent with the maintenance of a minimum standard of living necessary for health and efficiency, without unreasonably curtailing opportunities for employment." (Sec. 4 (c)).

(3) Minimum Fair Wage Standard.

The Board may, by order or regulation, increase the minimum wages paid to employes in any occupation—

a. So that the total annual income does not exceed $1200.00 and the maximum hourly rate does not exceed 80 cents except for overtime, night, or extra shift work. (Sec. 5 (a)).

b. Upon finding that increased wages are necessary:

1. To make wages paid fairly and reasonably commensurate with the value of the class of service rendered. (Sec. 2 (a) (14)); or

2. To prevent the undermining by a portion of the industry of the higher standard prevailing in the balance of the industry. (Sec. 5 (a)).

(4) Special Cases.

The Board may exempt occupations from the minimum fair wage standard by an order, upon finding:

a. That the employes are of limited qualifications as to learning or apprenticeship, age or physical or mental deficiency or injury; (Sec. 6 (c) (1) and (2)).

b. The employes are furnished special facilities of value as required by the nature of the business; (Sec. 6 (c) (3)).

c. Special cases justifying special treatment. (Sec. 6 (c) (5)).

(5) Collective Bargaining.

a. Neither the Act nor any order or regulation shall interfere with collective bargaining or with action taken by employes to enforce collective bargaining under the law of the land. (Sec. 23 (a)).

b. Neither the Act nor any order or regulation can reduce wages below those specified in collective bargaining agreements. (Sec. 23 (b)).

c. The Board may provide such rules or regulations to prevent minimum wages from becoming maximum wages. (Sec. 12 (6)).

d. The investigations by the Board of minimum fair wages in any occupation are to be made whenever the Board has reason to believe (among other things) that "owing to the inadequacy or ineffectiveness of the facilities for collective bargaining" such standards do not exist or have not been maintained.

e. The Act is to be interpreted and administered to encourage collective bargaining.

f. Orders of the Board may contain, in wage orders, provisions to prevent established minimum wages becoming the maximum, and to prevent the discharge or reduction in wages of employes receiving more than the established minimum wage. (Sec. 12 (6)).

The above presents three questions:

I. Should minimum wages of workers with annual wage income of $1200 or less be regulated by Congressional action?

II. Within what limits should Congressional regulation of minimum wages of workers with annual wage income of $1200 or less be provided?

III. What should be the relation between Congressional regulation of minimum wages of workers with annual wage income of $1200 or less, and collective bargaining agreements in the same field of activity?

Each of these will now be considered.

I
SHOULD MINIMUM WAGES OF WORKERS WITH ANNUAL WAGE INCOME OF $1200 OR LESS BE REGULATED BY CONGRESSIONAL ACTION?

To remove from all doubt, and to bring into the clear the special and limited problem covering special Congressional regulation over minimum wages in interstate industry proposed by the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1937, the American Federation of Labor emphasizes:

FIRST. The Act is not a minimum wage law for women and minors. It is designed to establish minimum wage standards under very limited and special circumstances for workers engaged in the private industries covered by the Act—men as well as women.

SECOND. The Act does not deal, as in other countries, with the fixing of general minimum wage standards for men as well as women and minors. Any such proposal to deal with the fixing of general minimum wage standards by a government body for men in private industry would be strenuously opposed by the American Federation of Labor as contrary to our conceptions of democracy, and as violating the cardinal principles of self government in private industry prevailing in this country.

THIRD. The proposed Act deals only with the fixing and regulation of wages of men, as well as women, in that very limited class of workers whose total annual income is $1200 or less per year. Beyond that special class the Act is not to be operative, and the question is, shall Congress be permitted to function even in that limited sphere of private industry?

The American Federation of Labor has insisted from the beginning upon the establishment of a living wage as a minimum, and it has through the force of organized effort succeeded in establishing minimum wages far superior to those prescribed by wage boards of other countries. Comparative experience is ample to show conclusively that through organization wages can and will be maintained at a higher minimum than they would be if fixed by legal enactment.

But just as the American Federation of Labor for almost half a century has pioneered for shorter hours for the unorganized workers of this country, as already detailed above, so during the same years it has pioneered, and at times single-handed has fought for a living wage and higher standards of pay for unorganized workers.

Thus it is that the American Federation of Labor brought into play with the force at its command the movement to protect and improve by legislation the wages of all special classes of workers whose character and employment render organization more difficult or its maintenance less stable, and subject them to exploitation in industry.

The forward march of minimum wage legislation for women and minors in this country and the eager service of organized workers on boards administering them, are the story of the efforts of the American Federation of Labor to protect those portions of the industrial communities where the principle of collective bargaining presents difficulties of application.

Only those of us who come in daily contact with the working classes can appreciate the difficult problems of organization, the instability of employment, and the temptations for exploitation of that class of workers to whom the vivid description of misery and substandard living contained in the President's Message of May 24, 1937, has application. These workers are in the field where collective bargaining presents special problems, is slower in application, and lacks the stability of other classes of employment. They, therefore, are to a greater extent than other workers entitled to the concern of society.

A fair standard of wages—a living wage—for all employed in an industry should be its first consideration, and an industry which denies to its workers, who are toilers, a living wage is unfit and should not be permitted to exist.

To the extent, therefore, that there are classes of workers yet in this country to whom even the minimum standards of decent living have been denied, or are not safeguarded by collective bargaining in industry, and until they are so safeguarded, the American Federation of Labor urges that they be made the subject of special treatment by the National Government in the fields over which it has jurisdiction.

II
WITHIN WHAT LIMITS SHOULD CONGRESSIONAL REGULATION OF MINIMUM WAGES OF WORKERS OF ANNUAL WAGE INCOME OF $1200 PER YEAR OR LESS BE PROVIDED?

As summarized above, the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1937 carrying out the President's Message provides for a Congressional minimum hourly wage standard, with power in the Board to vary the standard in special cases downward, and to improve upon the minimum wage standard in occupations according to the specifications enumerated in the Act, within the sphere of $1200 per year annual wage income, and to the upper limit of regular hourly wages of 80 cents per hour.

To provide a pendulum within the sphere of permissive functioning of extreme flexibility, so that the Board may effectively deal with variations in maximum work week standards, as provided by the Act, with variations in the efficiency, stability and continuity of employment, and with differentials in hourly and weekly wages necessary or appropriate to coordinate geographical, industrial and other competitive relationships within the United States, the American Federation of Labor recommends that the Congressional minimum wage standard be fixed at 40 cents per hour.

On the basis of the experience of the many and varied industries with which the American Federation of Labor is in daily contact, it is convinced that such a regular per hour wage scale can and should be paid and supported by American industry.

III
WHAT SHOULD BE THE RELATION BETWEEN CONGRESSIONAL REGULATION OF MINIMUM WAGES OF WORKERS WITH ANNUAL WAGE INCOME OF $1200 OR LESS, AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS IN THE SAME FIELD OF ACTIVITY?

The special and limited grounds on which the American Federation of Labor feels that private industry should be subjected to government regulation over wages, detailed above, require that such regulation should continue only until private industry shows its ability through collective bargaining to accomplish the objectives of the President's Message and the legislation enacted pursuant thereto.

The American Federation of Labor feels, therefore, that the minimum wage legislation enacted pursuant to the President's Message of May 24, 1937, should conform to the same four principles which the American Federation of Labor specified as the requirements for maximum hour legislation, to carry out the purposes of the same message in respect thereto.

As in the case of maximum hours, legislation covering minimum wages conforming to such four principles would mean that minimum wages in industry, even in respect to the special class of workers contemplated by the President's Message, would be regulated either by the Government or by collective bargaining, with the Government withdrawing as collective bargaining expands, and with inducement to industry to accept collective bargaining as an alternative to Government regulation.

The recital above given of the minimum wage provisions of the proposed Fair Labor Standards Act of 1937 reveals a clear and substantial compliance by the authors of the bill to conform it to such policy, and to attain such objectives.

But, as in the case of the additional sections offered to supplement the maximum hour provisions, the American Federation of Labor will offer six additional sections of similar import to make certain that the provisions of the Act shall operate in fact and in practice to encourage and not to supplant the collective bargaining on wages in the field covered by governmental regulation, and that the administration of the legislation shall utilize to the fullest extent the substantial and effective results already obtained and to be obtained from time to time through collective bargaining in that field.

SIX AMENDMENTS OFFERED

At the conclusion of his testimony on the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1937 before the joint meeting of the Senate Committee on Education on Labor and the House Committee on Labor, Mr. Green offered the following six amendments to the measure to carry out the recommendations of the American Federation of Labor.

1. This Act shall be construed and applied to encourage collective bargaining agreements covering wages and hours of employment.

2. Every regulation and order prescribing minimum wages or maximum hours shall contain therein a finding and legend that such minimum wages or maximum hours, as the case may be, are intended and shall be considered to be such, and such wage or hour is not intended and shall not be construed to represent maximum wages and minimum hours for the employes of the craft, class or industrial unit expressed by such regulation or order or to preclude or prevent or discourage collective bargaining agreements between employes and employers of any craft, class or industrial unit respectively, to provide for higher wages or shorter hours than the minimum wages and maximum hours prescribed by such regulation or order.

3. Maximum hours of employment and minimum standards of wages fixed by contracts for any craft, class or industrial unit between employers and employes (or the representatives of bona fide unions of employes therein designated or selected by them for the purpose of collective bargaining) and found by the Board to be minimum wage and maximum work-week standards prevailing in a substantial and fairly representative portion of the class, craft, industry, trade, business or division or unit therein as classified by the Board shall be fixed by the Board as the minimum fair wage or maximum reasonable work-week for such craft, class, industry, trade, business, or division or unit thereof, unless objection is urged that and the Board finds that a higher minimum fair wage or a lower maximum reasonable work-week is necessary to prevent undue discrimination or unfair competition. And the burden of showing such undue discrimination or unfair competition shall be on the party urging the same and the proof upon which the Board shall find the same to exist and shall find the necessity for such wage or hour standards to overcome the same shall be found by the Board to be clear and convincing.

4. In every determination of minimum wage standards or maximum reasonable work-week hereunder the maximum hours of employment or minimum standards of wages fixed by collective bargaining between the employer and his employes (or representatives of a bona fide union of his employes designated or selected for the purpose of collective bargaining) in any covering any craft, class, or industrial unit shall prima facie be taken and deemed to be minimum fair wages or maximum reasonable work-week standards unless such fixed hours or wages exceed or are less respectively than the maximum hours and minimum wage standards established by any competitor for employes of corresponding class, or craft or industrial unit as the case may be.

5. Whenever the Board finds employment of employes in any occupation to be covered by the investigation or order, is of a character generally recognized as craft employment, the investigation and order must in each case deal with such craft employment as a separate classification.

6. In any case where pursuant to Sections 3 and 4 hereof, minimum fair wages or maximum work-week standards are prescribed by regulation or order of the Board different than the minimum wage or maximum work-week standard fixed by the collective bargaining agreements considered in connection therewith, the provisions of such agreements shall be deemed to be subject to such regulation or order only to the extent necessary to make such regulation or order effective and only as long as the same shall be outstanding and in every other respect such agreements shall be in full force and effect to the same extent as if such Act had not been in effect and such regulation or order pursuant thereto had not been issued or was not outstanding.